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UNCLAS ALMATY 001522

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NP/ECC PVANSON, ACHURCH, JGABRYSZEWSKI
CBP/INA FOR PWALKER AND CDONOFRIO
USDOE/NNSA FOR TPERRY
DEPT FOR EUR/ACE DMARTIN
DOC FOR PETERSON-BEARD
AMEMBASSY BERLIN FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT, BISHKEK, BAKU, DUSHANBE FOR EXBS
ADVISORS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: EXBS: KAZAKHSTAN ADVISOR MONTHLY REPORTING CABLE
(MARCH 2005)

I. BROAD ITEMS OF INTEREST TO ADVISORS AND AGENCY MANAGERS:

1. Andrew Offenbacher, incoming EXBS Advisor to Kazakhstan, arrived at Post Almaty on March 10. Richard Morrissey, outgoing EXBS Advisor, departed for the United States on March 17. The new EXBS advisor spent his first week at post meeting embassy staff, attending orientations and learning about the program from Mr. Morrissey and Ms. Gulnara Abildaeva, EXBS Program Manager.

2. The EXBS office drafted five diplomatic notes in March for EXBS-sponsored trainings and visits scheduled for April.

END SUMMARY.

II. COMPLETED ACTIONS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD

A. SITE ASSESSMENTS AND MEETINGS CONDUCTED

1. No site assessments were conducted this month.

2. On March 9 EXBS Advisor Morrissey attended a meeting with Jonathan M. Aloisi, Political Advisor, and Robin L. Fontes, Chief of Regional Engagement of the Combined Forces Command, Kabul, Afghanistan. Representatives from Embassy Almaty's SAO and INL office also participated in the meeting. The group discussed US bilateral programs focused on counterterrorism and border security in the Central Asian region. Mr. Aloisi and Mr. Fontes requested that this office keep them apprised of EXBS Kazakhstan's activities.

B. TRAINING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

1. March 14-18, 2005 -- Gulnara Abildaeva, EXBS Program Manager, attended a regional procurement workshop for locally employed staff in Baku, Azerbaijan.

C. EQUIPMENT DELIVERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

1. No equipment was delivered this month.

2. The total value of equipment delivered, including pending deliveries is \$7,535,960.83.

D. IMMINENT TRAINING OR EQUIPMENT STATUS UPDATE.

1. April 7-8, 2005 - Commonwealth Trading Partners will hold a Preparatory Conference for its Product Identification Tool (PIT) in Astana. The event will be attended by representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Customs Control Committee of Kazakhstan. The two-day event will initiate the PIT software development project.

2. April 11-14, 2005 - Commonwealth Training Partners will conduct a Targeting and Risk Management workshop at the Dostyk Hotel in Almaty. The purpose of the workshop is to improve the ability of customs officers to identify high-risk shipments.

3. April 18-22, 2005 - The University of Georgia's Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) will conduct an assessment of Kazakhstan's export control system. Three CITS staff members have requested to meet with government officials, NGO representatives, and industry contacts in Astana and Almaty. The assessment team also plans to visit a border post.

4. April 18-22, 2005 - EXBS Program Manager Gulnara Abildaeva will travel to Aktau to hand over \$300,000 in parts and equipment for the SeaArk boat to the Marine

Division of the Kazakhstani Border Guard. Another goal of the trip is to determine mooring points for the three EXBS-funded SafeBoats scheduled to be delivered in August. While there Ms. Abildaeva will also conduct an inventory of equipment purchased by the EXBS program in Aktau and Bautino.

E. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN EXPORT CONTROLS, NONPROLIFERATION, OR RELATED BORDER SECURITY.

1. Dastan Eleukenov, former Director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies' Almaty Branch Office has begun work in a new position as the Deputy Director of the Multilateral Cooperation Department at the Kazakhstani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. EXBS works closely with this department in planning for and implementing training programs and equipment procurements.

III. RED FLAG ISSUES.

1. None.

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